

the division of accounting rate needs to be on non 50:50 basis.

(c) Federal Communication Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making suggesting reduction in the International Accounting Rates was a general notice addressed to all countries of the World and this notice was not routed through W.T.O

(d) Does not arise.

Sapphire Mines in Jammu and Kashmir

6326. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether sapphire mines of Padder area of Doda district in Jammu and Kashmir are in a bad state of affairs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to exploit costly sapphire from these mines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government propose to entrust this ask to some Central agency; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (f) As per information available, the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir had appointed one NRI Shri Laxman Rawat in 1988 as sole agent for exploitation of sapphire deposits and J.K. Minerals Ltd. (a State PSU) entered into an agreement with him for the purpose. However, the Central Government did not approve this arrangement. Meanwhile M/s Golden Films and Finance Ltd. filed a writ petition in Jammu and Kashmir High Court against the appointment of Shri Rawat. Further action can be taken by the State Government after the case is decided by the Hon'ble High Court.

Improvement of Railway Transportation in Darjeeling

6327. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government are considering to improve Railway transportation in Darjeeling, West Bengal;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) It is planned to provide 3 new narrow gauge locos for introduction on this section. 18 new coaches have already been pressed into service.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Inoperative Airports

6328. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of airports are lying inoperative for the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of airports out of them made operational so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) During the last 3 years 27 airports were not in operation.

(b) and (c) Airports are closed because none of the airlines are operating any flights to those locations. It is entirely for the airlines to decide whether they would operate their flights to any particular airport. Airports Authority will provide the necessary facilities for safe operation to such airports. During the last 3 years, four airports at Akola, Hubli, Kota and Gaya have been made operational.

[English]

World Bank Project at Sunderbans, West Bengal

6329. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to develop Sunderbans; West Bengal with the assistance of World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the tourism related project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) The Department of Tourism does not have any proposal to seek the assistance of World Bank for the development of tourism in Sunderbans. However, the Department of Tourism sanctioned central financial assistance amounting to Rs. 200.44 lakhs for various projects in Sunderbans.

Computerised Reservation Facilities

6330. SHRI ANCHAL DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide computerised Railway reservation facilities in easily accessible towns of rural areas of the country to save the money and time of the people; and